

Dear Dave,

7/12/77

Les Payne just phoned to say that instead of coming tomorrow he is coming next week. His decision is the right one. I'd try to talk him out of that travel for only part of a day but didn't. Now he sees it and I'm happy about it because it can mean more to him, which means much more to what he can do, if he has more time.

However it makes and it represents a problem for me. Everyone is busy so the things I've been looking forward to from others do not materialize.

This came to mind when I was thinking about how I'd spend tomorrow, which I'd set aside to spend with him for the time he'd be here.

At the rate things are going, which means not going, assuming I have and develop no more problems it is already impossible for me to do the King book as I planned to.

The first thing that occurred to me for tomorrow was to get to the writing. ~~But~~ But I lack the research material on the King activities beginning after Montgomery. Of course I can leave blanks, the go back. The need to have to keep going back becomes an oppression. I've been through it so many times.

There is a chance more records will be in the mail but half the morning will be gone before it is here. If they do come the rest of the day is taken up for sure.

Of course there is extensive filing to be done but I'm not up to that.

The same situation exists with something I'd expected ~~Mr~~ Shlike to do with the official allegations. He has not been able to get to it. He has been busy and he has had a few medical problems.

I can't conceive of a black studies program that does not have a chronology of King's activities in terms of each of the more important cities. Apparently I'm wrong or I just can get the simple outline by city and date. How many times he was jailed also would help.

If you had been able to get to it I'm sure you'd have sent it by now. I do not know if I'll be able to get to the writing tomorrow but if it do it will be without this kind of summary/outline in mind. If somehow I get one later maybe it can be an appendix but my appendix problem is already overwhelming. I have that much.

I think that the only approach now possible, with all the time that has passed, is to generalize and keep going. Otherwise there will be no end and the beginning will be farther in the future. This means to at least try to get started.

There now is no practical choice with the allegations. Where they are important enough to look up I'll just have to take that time. Where they are not I'll just paraphrase them. It is clear Shlike now will not have time, at least not by the time I would like to be able to use them. It is even more impossible for me to undertake this kind of work now.

There likewise are ever decreasing possibilities of my getting to other work I'd like to do and I know others would like me to do. There is little point in evading realities. The plain and simple truth is that I should not have waited this long. Now I must try to find ways of avoiding further delays.

Now for the good news. I've just had a call from Mae Brussel. She begins and ends and is cut in in various ways in a movie called The Hughes Mystery. Of the actors she mentioned "Prode ick Crawford is the best-known one. The money was put up by a Nacaraguan she says made the Bay of Pigs airstrips. She was allowed to write her own lines and of course speak them.

She has received some represented as all the FBI files on her. These include a bomb-threat on her return from New Orleans. She says that while the threat was supposedly phoned from Atlanta while she was on the plane from N.O., stopping at Dallas, the records claim she was responsible for the threat. Her belief is that the threat permitted prowling through her luggage.

She did not request her files until this February. I'll be getting copies soon. She says they show a void from the New Orleans time to recent days. I suppose this is because of what would be disclosed, not because the FBI did not care about what she was saying about it for five years on a radio program.

Best,